

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

JULY 2021



Volume 44

No. 6

Editor – Tony Holmes





# COMING CHRONICLES

The **August Chronicle** will be available for distribution on or about **Friday July 30th**.

The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**. **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **DEADLINE = 5.15 pm, Monday, July 19th**.

**After this deadline**, items get **less precedence** for inclusion (No guarantees!), & need to reach us by the Wednesday.

**STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note** that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday July 16th, due to their preparation time.

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; It should perhaps be realised that the later an item is received, the less precedence it gets.

**NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS** (any doubts, ask the Editor!) All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to **include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author**. Contributions can be made :-

1. By **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a **meaningful title**, we get a lot called Chronicle!)

to reach the next editor → [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)

**Please remember to check** that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).

3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT – IF** you can type it, PLEASE see numbers #1 & #2 above?! [Scanning is a real nuisance, and tends to create errors!]

4. **Hand-written? Preferably not PLEASE**, if over maybe a para. This is 2021, should be a way to type & send it?! (= fewer errors!).

## ADVERTISING RATES

For Block Advert (about 1/12<sup>th</sup> page)

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Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
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Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

**All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque** made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

## DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle

Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
Sept	Mon Aug 16th	Aug 27th

**DISCLAIMER** This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

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**This Month's Cover** – **Daphne Samworth** kindly sent us a snap of the ghostly silken webbing in a local hedge (actually first noticed by **Judy & Derek Henman** on one of their walks). It may look a bit sinister, but we shouldn't be alarmed, it's not from some giant spider! The culprits are we hear a harmless caterpillar, of a group of moths called **Small Ermine moths**.

They apparently produce the webbing as a **disguise against predators**, and such coverage of hedges and trees is not unusual, especially at this time of year. We've added pics of an Ermine Moth (there are several slightly different species in the group), their caterpillars, and a particularly large example of a web coverage. The webs will disappear through the summer and the moths will start flying later on.

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# Local Groups & Clubs

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

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Youth & Community Acting Together

Great enthusiasm this week as **Term 6 starts** within the schools, many young people are enjoying the sunshine and looking forward to the school year winding down.

**Half term was lots of fun**, our sports sessions in the village were nice and busy. Lately, it has been wonderful to welcome so many new young people and see so many new faces. As well as our popular sports sessions, we took a small group this half term on a trip to Wittenham Clumps. This trip was centred around lots of conversations and learning about nature and looking after our own wellbeing. Before we headed back to the village, we finished off the trip with making toasties outdoors!

Recently with the rules around lockdown we have had to limit numbers and offer support sessions on an invite only basis only. However, good news... **our drop-in sessions** are now back open



and at 6pm every Monday we are on the village hall field with our gazebo and sports equipment. We then head inside at 7pm with the 14+ group to challenge perceptions and provide an **informal safe space** for the young people to talk. This session is well attended but we are always looking to support more young people so if you have a young person aged 10+ please do come along and meet the team and see what we can do for you!

The summer holidays are fast approaching, and we have bigger plans than ever. We are just waiting on confirmation before we can announce them. Make sure you are following the **team's social media accounts and checking the website** as that's where it will be advertised and promoted!

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford (pic), Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain, Emily Astley-Madge

Do contact any of us on:-  
jamesq.ycat@gmail.com,  
jakef.ycat@gmail.com,  
roxy.ycat@gmail.com, or  
emily.adyp@gmail.com

Tel:- 01235 848694 or 07875 649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus, Emily Damascus



Jake\_Damascus; James\_Damascus; Roxy\_Damascus, Emily\_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – MIND GYM Website - [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)

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### THAMES VALLEY FARMERS MARKETS (8.30 to 1.30)

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(\*'Locally' – Didcot mkt has a wonderful fishmonger, up from Sussex, always sells well – little sea for fishing round here?!)

**JULY Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 16th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 10th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - [Tvmf.org.uk](http://Tvmf.org.uk)

## DRAYTON W.I. (by Ann Webb)

Things are looking increasingly unlikely that we will start up again (soon) due to the Delta variant of the virus. We do need to be safe and sure. I've been sent the following from our bookings secretary:- It's looking unlikely at present that we'll be having a July meeting indoors.

Plans for the rest of the year are going ahead and we have some very interesting speakers booked, including 'Medical Detection Dogs', and the work of the War Graves Commission.

The latter is a very appropriate subject as we commemorate more sections of the war effort that are now having memorials dedicated to them.

We are all eternally grateful to the commission for the maintenance of the war grave sites all over the world.

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH

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Rector	Revd Helen Kendrick	848297
Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	07707 087131
Associate Priest	Revd Meg Heywood	537100
Pro-warden	Mrs Linda Johnson	527521
Pro-warden	Mrs Val Cross	535183

The church remains open daily for private, individual prayer! {Sunday – Saturday, 10-4}.

**REGULAR SERVICES** – We are very pleased that public worship can take place following guidelines from the Government and the Diocese of Oxford.

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
	9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (CW) except 4th Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Morning Praise is held

**NB:-** There will be **NO** Thursday morning Holy Communion Service until further notice.

**For everyone's safety**, once in the building we will all be expected to wear masks (unless exempt) and sanitise our hands and remain socially distant from those who are not in our bubble. **Thank you.** We look forward to welcoming you.

**Why not try** 'Sunday Worship' on Radio 4 at 8.10am. Also Songs of Praise (usually BBC1, times may vary!). There is also the Church of England free phone line, 'Daily Hope' 0800 804 8044, offering a selection of prayers, hymns, songs and reflections.

**Please let us know** if you are self-isolating & need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

## PARISH REGISTER

**Burial of Ashes** May 27th **Leslie Allen**

## Brollydays

### Summer holiday services with a difference!

Many of us are unable to go abroad this summer, so we thought we would try bringing the 'abroad' to us.

**All welcome** (no vaccine passports needed!)

July 25th 9:45 St Peter's goes to France.

Aug 22nd 9:45 St Peter's goes Camping.

AND (date TBA) - St Peter's goes to the Caribbean!

**We look forward to seeing you**



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### YOU STAY WE PRAY (July)

27th June – 3rd Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Virgate; Lammas Land; Fallowfield Close;

4th – 10th Lockway

11th – 17th Whitehorns Way

18th – 24th Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

25th – 31st Drayton Rd; Milton Rd; Fisher Close; Stone Hill; Marcham Rd; Meads Close; Rippington Ct; New Cut Mill;

**Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group** >> we shall meet outdoors on a Wednesday morning, during term time, from 10.00 – 11.30am. You are so welcome to join us!

Please email [suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com](mailto:suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com) for more information. Look forward to seeing you!

## From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

Dear Friends

At last the good weather has come and there are increasing signs that we are emerging from the pandemic. Our vaccination programme has been an outstanding success and while we are moving steadily back to normal life even if it might still be necessary to delay foreign holidays.

The last eighteen months have been tough for us all and yet it has brought out the best in many people. Huge numbers of people have volunteered and got involved in everything from delivering food to elderly neighbours to helping with car parking at vaccination centres. Social concerns have come to the forefront of people's minds with campaigns like Black Lives Matter reminding us that minority groups still struggle and climate activists calling on politicians to sort out the environment for our children.

Our churches have done their best to minister to our communities, keeping in touch with those self-isolating, delivering hampers at Christmas and posies at Mother's Day.

**We're now open again for worship** and **we invite everyone to join us**. Like many charities we are now struggling with loss of income and this will mean a future reduction in what we can provide. However we will continue to spread the message of God's love and care, just as we have always done.

*Tim Budd (member - DAMASCUS Parish ministry team)*

### Letters to the Editor

The Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and a phone number (please!) in case any text needs verification.

You may request that the name isn't published, and we'll usually abide with this if there's a plausible reason.



## Local Groups & Clubs

### Drayton Brownies

It's been all go at Drayton Brownies this term, as we finally got permission to restart meetings! It has been a joy to see the girls again and they have adapted very well to the different restrictions that are needed at the moment.

This term we have been working on the Explore badge, learning skills to help with map reading, caring for the environment and staying safe on adventures.

Last week **we celebrated yet another Gold Award**, this time for **Olivia!** She managed to complete the final parts of her Gold challenge during lockdown and it was lovely to be able to present this to her before she moves away. **Well done Olivia!**



We finally got the chance to say a proper goodbye to the older girls who have moved on to Guides, and also to Rainbow Owl who is moving this month. We will miss you all very much and **wish you good luck with your next Guiding adventure!**

If **your daughter is aged 7-10** and you'd like any **more details**, please email to [drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk](mailto:drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk)

**More information** about Girlguiding, and forms to join the waiting list, are available at [Girlguiding.org.uk](http://Girlguiding.org.uk).

We currently meet at the village hall on Wednesday evenings during term time. Younger girls can join our waiting list and it is looking very busy for September, so do please get in touch!

**Laura Hughes**

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### Drayton Wives

Well we shall (hopefully) be starting to meet again soon subject to government rules and regulations!!!!

But ever positive we have held a committee meeting to discuss what we can do when the time is right.

The walks have restarted and everyone is welcome, but **we do need to know in advance**. At the time of writing, Liz Kidd is scheduled to lead one around Thrupp Lake (June 18th) with lunch afterwards, and I will lead the one after around Steventon (10.30am, July 16th) with again a pub lunch!!

We are ever hopeful to have our first coffee morning on **August 2nd**, if the centre is open, at 10.00am.

And then a bring your own picnic to the recreation field on Sept 1st - weather permitting - 12.00 for 12.30pm.

If we can restart our Wednesday meetings we may be reliant on our wonderful members to entertain us with perhaps your best lockdown stories!!!

So we are feeling positive that this is the year we can start to enjoy ourselves again and renew our friendships.

**Lisa Lammiman**



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# BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary:- Mrs Jayne Henderson..... 522161



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES >>

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## WESTMINSTER VIEW



Our MP (Wantage/Didcot) is **David Johnston (OBE)**, awarded for services to Social Mobility and Education).

**Significant change** is being proposed for Oxfordshire constituencies by the independent Boundary Commission.

They say:- create a seventh seat in the county at Bicester; move the Faringdon, Kingston Bagpuize, Stanford and Watchfield & Shrivenham wards from the Wantage constituency into the Witney constituency; move the Marcham division from Wantage into Oxford West and Abingdon; and move the Sandford and the Wittenhams division from Henley into Wantage, which will get an official new name: Didcot and Wantage (I have continued my predecessor's habit of including Didcot in the name but it isn't official!).

The purpose is to give **each MP roughly the same number** of electors as, at the moment, constituencies in England range from 55,000 to 100,000 people. Wantage and Didcot is 91,000, so I knew they would propose a chunk being taken off somewhere; the proposal would make it 71,000. We're strongly urged not to give an opinion as these are proposals subject to consultation, but **you can give yours** up until August 2nd on their website (see <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk>).

I have launched **a new project** with my colleague, Claire Coutinho (MP for East Surrey), to research and propose practical recommendations to **close** what is called the **Opportunity Gap** (that's for young people from different backgrounds and areas of the country). We'll look at everything from the resources parents have (financial and non-financial) through to the recruitment processes employers use, praising those doing good work to help, and calling out those who could do more. My pre-politics career was entirely spent working with disadvantaged young people and in the post-Covid world, it's **a topic that is more important than ever**.

One of the most valuable things I think I can do in my job is raise issues that affect constituents in the House of Commons. Recently, I've been pleased to raise a series of concerning issues, including the case of a constituent who has been waiting 3 years for her rape case to reach court, and what looks to be a worrying **rise in the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs** to dementia patients who don't have a diagnosis of psychosis.

I also took the opportunity to raise the **lack of GP services** to serve our growing population – and am pleased the Health Minister has agreed to meet to discuss this further. On this topic, my debate on the performance of Royal Mail is this month and I will put my speech – and other local issues I raise in the meantime – on my Facebook page {**for details of that, and the contact email, see the L-H column on this page**}.

A few weeks ago I was delighted to become the first patron of the Childrey charity, **Team Mikayla**, set up by the inspiring 14 year old Mikayla, who has had a long and difficult fight against cancer. I was delighted to subsequently hear they received a **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**, alongside other great local organisations such as the **Ray Collins Charitable Trust** in Wantage, and **Farcycles** in Faringdon. In other **good news**, **Anna Richards of Maymessy** in West Challow received the Prime Minister's **Points of Light award** too.

**Congratulations to them all.**

**If you need to get in touch with our MP >>**  
**email [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk), & for up-to-date info please check out his Facebook page [@davidjohnston4wantage](https://www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage)**



## Neighbourhood Action Group 5

{NB TWO sets of Spoof, Scam, & Con-men warnings this month – this one was intended for the June issue, but was held over due to lack of space. Always too many scams on the go! See [Page 17](#) for more common-sense warnings, & advice}

### Out-dated routers a potential security risk

Consumer watchdog Which? has reported that around 6 million people in the UK could be using routers that have not been updated since 2018. This means that **crucial security updates have not been installed**. Potential problems include:- weak default passwords, local network issues, and lack of updates re known security issues.

Read the full article from Which?, including information about which devices are likely to be affected, and how to request a new router, at <https://tinyurl.com/3v6cxpjz> (that link has been shortened for ease of use).

### 'Number Spoofing' phone calls

UK telecoms regulator, Ofcom, is warning the public **NOT** to trust 'caller-ID' as a means of verifying a caller's identification.

Fraudsters are increasingly **changing their caller ID** to disguise their identity, which is known as 'number spoofing'.

If a victim is hesitant about believing a call is genuine the fraudster may suggest that the victim compares the reverse of the bank card with the number that the call is from, (ie: the number being spoofed).

A recent report suggests that the number of reported cases of impersonation fraud – including spoof calls – nearly doubled last year to 40,000. It's believed the real figure is likely to be much higher, **because many victims won't report fraud** to their bank or building society, or even tell their family or friends, due to feelings of embarrassment or guilt.

Each case can involve the theft of thousands, or even tens of thousands of pounds, leaving the financial and emotional lives of victims ruined.

### 'Happy to Chat' benches in Abingdon



In order to help those in the community who are experiencing isolation and loneliness, Abingdon Town Council has marked some benches in the town as 'Happy to Chat' benches. By choosing to sit on one of these benches people indicate that they're happy for others to join them on the bench for a chat, or just to say hello. →>>

#### Find more online security info and advice at:-

National Cyber Security Centre <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>

Cyber Aware <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>

Get Safe Online <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

More advice about how to protect yourself against fraud is available on the Thames Valley Police website :-

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/>

## DRAYTON ANTIQUE COLLECTORS & VINTAGE FAIR

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### DATES FOR 2021

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Sunday 1st August

Sunday 5th September

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### Pension scams >> BEWARE !!!

Almost eight million people in Britain have been targeted by fraudsters attempting to trick innocent pensioners out of their life savings. The number of pension scams has rocketed during the pandemic and it has quickly become **one of the most common types of fraud**. The number of reported crimes has jumped 45% this year, from 2020, according to Action Fraud. The Pensions Regulator has said it's investigating more than £54 million of lost savings, affecting 18,000 people.

7.6 million people report receiving unsolicited emails, texts or calls from people encouraging them to transfer or release money from their pension, with **cold calling** the most common way for scammers to target victims. Scammers have also increasingly used FAKE websites to lure unsuspecting victims. Aviva identified 27 fake sites between March & Sept 2020 that purported to be theirs, trying to defraud pension savers.

**HAD ANY suspicious texts?? Forward them, free-of-charge, to 7726 so that your service provider can investigate.**

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### LOCKDOWN HUMOUR...

It's been a great blessing to be at home with the wife for these last few months. We've caught up on everything I've done wrong in the last 20 years.

Day 27 in the house, and the dog is looking at me like "See, this is why I chew the furniture".

Remember all those times when you thought "I wish the weekend could last forever"? Well, wish granted – Happy Now?!

Silly you!! You thought dogs were hard to train – just look at all the HUMANS who can't Sit and Stay?!



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# YOUR LETTERS

## A Poisonous Topic

**Grateful thanks** to those who've forwarded a bunch of recent emails detailing the discovery of a VERY NASTY plant called **Japanese Knotweed** (it has other names too) in Drayton.

Catherine Webber (local councillor) has been involved, and 'Farid' – sadly I can't elaborate on that name as all I have is an email ID, and their surname isn't clear from that (as is often the case!). The plant has been found **by the former yard for scrap cars**, just off Sutton Wick Lane, at the bottom end.

It seems that the land is OCC's responsibility, and their relevant dept is planning to attack the plant by poisoning the roots (may have already occurred by the time this is being read).

The plant (*Fallopia Japonica*) is EXTREMELY invasive, and has significant issues for property owners, its presence can even affect mortgages apparently!

The RHS describes it thus:- In spring, reddish-purple fleshy **shoots** emerge from crimson-pink buds at ground level. These grow rapidly, producing in summer, dense stands of tall bamboo-like **canes** which **grow up to 2.1m (7ft) tall**. These canes have characteristic purple flecks, and produce branches from nodes along its length. Leaves are heart or shovel-shaped and up to 14cm (5½in) in length and borne alternately (in a zig zag pattern) along the stems. The stems die back to ground level in winter, but the dry canes remain for several months or longer.

The **creamy-white flower tassels** produced in late summer and early autumn reach up to 15cm (6in). ➔➔



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➔➔ A number of plants can cause skin issues, the Euphorbia family is one, and also the 'Peruvian Lily' is one that florists have to be very careful with (known as *Alstroemeria*) as it's a popular flower for bouquets.

**Hemlock** isn't native to the UK but can be found in most areas. It grows in ditches and riverbanks and in disturbed areas such as waste ground and rubbish tips. Hemlock is a tall green plant with purple spots on its stem and leaves similar to the carrot plant, it has white flowers. If it is eaten hemlock causes sickness and in severe cases it can kill by paralyzing the lungs.

And sadly **HEMLOCK has been reported** on the estate in the middle of the village, **treat it with care if removing it**, and **don't eat it!** (not sure why anyone would).

This picture tries to show the **distinctive purple markings** on the stem, and though we can't give exact clues for the aroma, it apparently has a horrible 'mousy' smell, and livestock usually know to avoid it. The flowers are described as forming 'white umbrellas' when they appear (normally June & July).



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# LETTERS

## Drayton Footpaths - Named??

[Ed's note:- Last month's issue featured a village map, the article titled 'Improvements to Cycle Paths & Footpaths'. The map was rather a small scale, and we had several emails about perhaps showing a bigger map, with a related topic about maybe REVIVING the old village footpath names? That of course supposes that SOMEONE out there knows what they are?!]

That text included:- ". . . revive the names of our footpaths as a more user-friendly way of identifying them than numbers allocated by some nameless bureaucrat".

It added :- "When we researched the old path names, many were given to us by older members of the community and it would be a shame if they were lost. One, between Sutton Wick and Oday Hill was called Betty's something; there was also Rook's Nest and, of course, Peep-o-Day Lane and many more colourful names".

That in turn led to former editor Derek Pooley scouring the Chronicle archives to find a relevant footpath map first published many decades ago. Well done Derek!

This map is from the 80s, stems from the creation of the then-new 'History Society'. A leading member was Daria Stimpson, and the illustrations were done by Margaret Jones of Sutton Wick.

Residents of the village's new estates should be aware that back when that map was drawn up, their houses weren't even a gleam in a developer's eye!

NB If you know some of the missing footpath names, do send them in – email address on page 2 – and we'll pass them on as needed. ➔➔

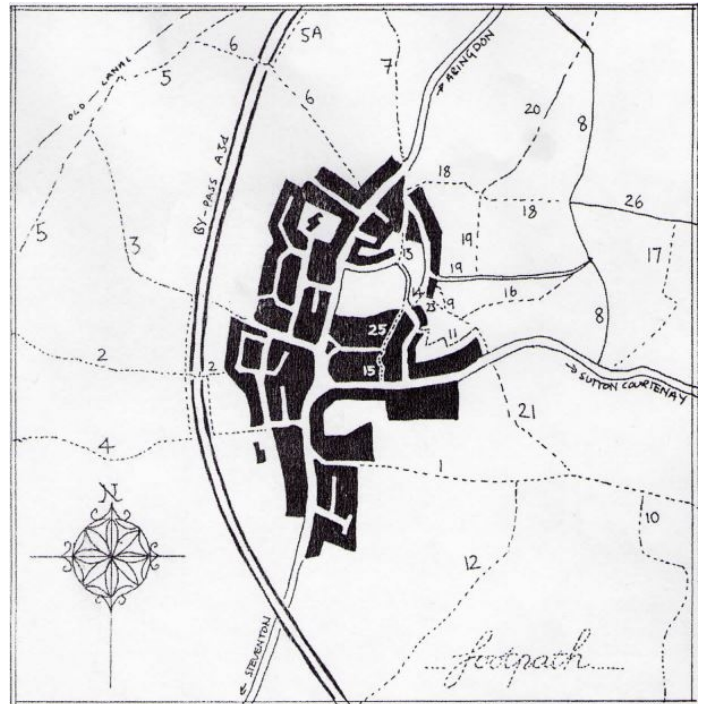
Grateful thanks to Andrew Bax & Richard Wade on this topic, and as stated above to Derek for delving into the dusty archives. Well, electronically dusty these days I gather. The back-page map has footpaths, a far more modern version, and I gather that we need to credit the Ordnance Survey for it.]



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### How about those missing numbers??!

- 1 Close End
- 2 Kiln Lane
- 3 Marcham Road
- 4 Hulgrove Road
- 6 Frogmore Tree Road
- 7 Barrow Road
- 8 Gypsy Lane
- 10 Harwell Path
- 15 Love Lane
- 18 Basset's Lane
- 20 Betty White's
- 21 Rook's Nest
- 25 Gravel lane
- 26 Dog's Body Lane

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# Your District Councillor



## Coronavirus

Well, my hope that the now-renamed Delta variant would fade away like the South African (Beta) and Brazilian (Gamma) variants has bitten the dust. Nevertheless, it took a surprisingly long time to stumble out of its hotspots, but it is finally growing around the country.

**Indications are that the vaccines still work very well** – the variant has managed to evolve a degree of immune escape, but that seems limited to eroding the protection from mild symptomatic illness in those with only first doses. The second dose still slams the door on the virus, even with Delta's best efforts (It means that getting the second dose is VERY important: efficacy against mild symptomatic infection looks to be 30-50% from 1 dose and 80%+ from two doses; and from hospitalisation/death look to be 80% reduced from 1 dose and somewhere between 95% and 99% from receiving both doses). The spread is overwhelmingly in the pre-vaccinated younger population and those who have refused the vaccine.

There have been some headlines about the number of breakthrough infections, especially those in hospital and those who still sadly died. Remember when reading those, though, that the rollout was targeted to the most vulnerable: those who have now been offered both doses are those who accounted for most hospitalisations and between 95-99% of deaths.

This means that if, say, 30 unvaccinated or single-dosed people have sadly died from Delta, we would previously have expected something in the region of 600-3000 deaths from those groups now offered both doses. I understand that instead of that, we've seen 12, nationwide. That implies a risk reduction of over 95% and quite possibly over 99%. No vaccines are perfect, **reducing the risk by so much is very good indeed.**

**Remember those ratios** when you see these headlines: If however-many unvaccinated people have died, we "should" have seen between twenty and a hundred times as many of those now double-vaccinated dying, in the absence of vaccines. The second dose is so important.

Covid levels in the Vale did increase a little up until June 1st, but **look to be falling again already** as people have increased their caution – despite the fact that Delta now makes up nearly all cases of the virus in this area (however, rates are still climbing in South Oxon and Oxford City at the time of writing). **With the vaccine rollout continuing at pace**, the virus will be running out of the ever-dwindling pool of those who can still spread it. As I write, we have had the Government's news that the **final relaxation day is being put back from June 21st by four weeks**. In that time, **we should see that the pool of those susceptible to spreading the virus is greatly reduced.** →>

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## **Outdoor Swimming Pool: Abbey Meadows**

The Outdoor Pool at Abbey Meadows has not yet reopened following the pandemic closure. This is due to the fact that the contractors running it, GLL, have been badly hit by covid. We have offered them an extra financial package to help them get the pool open but we are waiting to hear from them whether they will accept (the pool was already heavily subsidised, but it's a very useful amenity). **In the longer term** we are open to running the pool in a different way, but there is an existing contract in place that we have to follow.

[Ed:- **late news** since Andy's article was written, the pool should re-open on July 12th, for more info, please see their website >> <http://www.abingdonoutdoorpool.org.uk> ]

## **Beacon Arts & Community Centre to reopen**

As it will no longer be needed for provision of symptom-free testing due to the much-increased rollout of alternative options for LFD tests (workplace testing, secondary school and college testing, collecting home test kits from pharmacies, or our symptomatic testing sites, or going online to request a home delivery), the testing element will close from June 26th and it will be prepared for a **full public reopening from Sept 6th**.

## **A34 Drayton Lay-by**

We've been notified that Highways England are going to be converting this "unofficial lay-by" into a proper and official standard lay-by (realigning the verges, resurfacing, laying new road markings, improved drainage, etc).

They are also going to plant new vegetation on the "slip road" embankment area, replace the existing gates with heavy-duty gates, install new timber fences, remove the concrete blocks and replace them with a new section of interlocking concrete blocks.

The main construction work will start from Monday June 21st and is **expected to be completed in September**. Work to clear hazardous material from the lay-by and vegetation clearance should have already begun by the time you read this.

## **Walnut Meadows**

To add to my briefing last month: just because we're (hopefully) looking for a breakthrough about land levels, **we're not going to forget the rest of the other outstanding issues!** It's my hunch that the land levels are by far the most expensive and intractable area that should unlock everything else – once those are resolved, the incentive is for Miller Homes to finish off properly.

My latest information is that Miller Homes did submit new drawings, but these met with negative feedback from us (didn't do the job) and they are working up a new planning application which we expect to receive shortly.

That's all for this month. **Take care, and stay safe,**  
**Andy Cooke**



## Who likes a Puzzle?

I say 'Puzzle' – more accurately, in Maths, I think it's called a problem. In mid-June, I accidentally found this debate on F'book, it had been posted by the Independent, but I gather that other media sources do something similar every month or two, just to wind readers up, and get some clicks?!



The equation is fairly straightforward at the start. But exactly how you solve the problem is not proving to be so direct.

$$8 \div 2(2 + 2) = ?$$

So, looks simple enough, but it provoked a long and at times quite furious debate, insults being hurled about schooling, or the lack of, and teachers (clearly incompetent – if their method led them to people getting the 'wrong' answer!).

This was a fairly typical comment, from an annoyed parent! My husband and I both get 16, our sons both get 1. It's nothing to do with Maths, it's to do with when you were taught it, my generation had never heard of BODMAS until these silly equations started to pop up and our children had to explain to us what was going on -

**BODMAS** got a lot of mentions in comments, though Americans refer to that mnemonic as **PEMDAS** (they call Brackets 'Parentheses'). The 'O' in BODMAS stands for 'Of', as many decades ago the British Exam boards used to set questions like, "Take three quarters OF your mother's 100 clothes pegs, put one on each thumb, and another on your nose, HOW MANY groups of a dozen are left"? Etc.

The **parental moan isn't quite correct**, the debate hinges on whether you evaluate the bracketed  $2 + 2$  AND multiply the result by that other '2', and only then divide the answer into the '8' on the left, or do you just go from left to right in order?

Somebody stated that they could get **THREE answers**, the same 1 or 16 as everyone else, also 2. But despite many requests, no explanation re the '2' was forthcoming.

Some brought **calculators** into it, "MY calculator says this, so you're barmy" (etc). It was then explained that Wikipedia, re BODMAS, points out that calculators MAY give different answers for some problems (like this one!), it just depends how the person who did the gadget's programming had been taught.

I was at school in the 60s, my old Maths teacher (known as 'TOP' – Mr T O Prothero) would doubtless have been spinning in his grave at the fuss, and though he just about lived to see a calculator, using one would have brought a swift detention!

**Try it YOURSELF** – parents grab a nearby child, or perhaps those at school seeing this, try and annoy your parents?! ➔➔

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➔➔ NOW, **PLEASE do NOT send us your answers!!**  
This problem was only included for your, er, entertainment, and we don't need an inbox full of ones and sixteens!

Talk amongst yourselves, debate the merits of BODMAS (or whatever you call your taught method) but leave us out!

**Having said that**, there was ONE woman (British) who partway through the massive list of F'book comments just about **completely befuddled everyone**.

She stated – most definitively – that EVERYONE was wrong. **EVERYONE KNEW** – she said (you could imagine her shouting at the screen) that a number, divided by itself, was . . . ZERO. She had clearly evaluated the brackets, **divided 8 into 8, and according to her, that's . . . ZERO.**

After THAT, nobody could be sure about anyone's education . . . or possibly, medication?

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# Drayton Beauchamp

Drayton Beauchamp is in Buckinghamshire, and this is another in our occasional series of articles describing other Draytons, both here in UK, and abroad.

## The Village that Time Passed By

Drayton Beauchamp is a parish and hamlet nestling at the foot of the Chiltern Hills close to the Hertfordshire border. The main settlement lies alongside an ancient 'holloway' which runs downhill from the Upper to the Lower Icknield Way.

Where the summer pastures at the topmost end of the parish used to be, a farm and handful of houses are nowadays separated physically from the lower settlement by the A41 Aston Clinton bypass. Only half a mile in width and with only 100-150 residents, the parish of Drayton Beauchamp extends down from those hills for almost 6 miles to Puttenham Bottom Lock on the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

The parish is situated in the **Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, and parts of it lie within the Drayton Beauchamp Conservation Area.

There was a settlement here long before the Domesday Survey was commissioned in 1085; archaeological finds have included Iron Age, Saxon and Roman artefacts. The ancient St Mary the Virgin Church which stands in the peaceful setting of a field is one of several listed buildings in the parish. A famous marble statue of William Cheyne (Viscount Newhaven) in the chancel of the church attracts many visitors.

A manor house nearby, surrounded by medieval moats and fishponds, was built by the Cheyne family who were awarded the Lordship of the Manor by Edward III in 1364. After the death of the childless Viscount Newhaven in 1728, the Lordship of the Manor was bought by the wealthy Gumley family of Isleworth and a new manor house to replace the demolished original was built south of the main village. The Lordship of the Manor thereafter passed via various nieces and cousins to the Jenney family who married into the Harpur Crewe family of Calke Abbey fame. The final Jenney, Lord of the Manor to live locally died without heirs in 1948 and Airmyne Harpur Crewe, last of her line and childless like her two brothers, died in Staffordshire in 1999. →>



→> Drayton Beauchamp was traditionally a farming village, with straw-plaiting by the women and children bringing in welcome additional income.

The entire parish, apart from Lock Cottage and the canal, was owned by the Lord of the Manor – land, farms, cottages, and even the patronage of the village church. A Church of England school was built in 1844, but closed around 1903.

Although the appearance and composition of Drayton Beauchamp (always pronounced “Beecham” locally) have changed greatly since the Jenney/Harpur Crewe era, the village remains a charming and peaceful backwater.

**There are no schools, pubs or shops, no mains drainage or gas, no street lights or pavements.** Villagers must drive the 3 miles to Tring or 6 miles to Aylesbury for services, and work may well mean a commute to London. A feeling of community, however, continues.

Drayton Beauchamp remains a place in which people love to live and which they find hard to leave.

Margaret Ross

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**[YES, a COVID Joke! – Grateful thanks to Twitter]**

Don't blame me for this joke, Fate just hurled it in front of me one day; you may need a German dictionary, but hopefully it's so bad that you won't. Think back a year or so when our shops were having to ration things >>>

A friend in Germany 🇩🇪 tells me everyone's panic buying sausages and cheese 🧀 😱

It's the "Wurst Käse" scenario apparently... 🙄

😁 #Wurst joke of the day 😁

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## Richard Webber - Oxon CC

### County Council Report

#### Topical Updates

Since the May elections, much has been happening – not least the need for the new administration to get its feet under the table as it picks up a mass of issues across the County.

Below is an update on just some of the issues affecting our area >>

#### Marcham and Frilford Junction traffic

Work is going on to consider options to address these issues. All options and their implications are on the table, including a possible Marcham By-pass, investment in public transport, cycling and active travel. Trying to predict the needs of a transport system beyond a few years is an enormous challenge.

Balancing the impact of new technologies, and the climate emergency, against the needs of a prosperous growing area is staggeringly complex. I hope that once the constraints of Covid are behind us, we can set up a brainstorming session with interested residents in the new Marcham Community Centre to get some input into the OCC considerations.

#### Rights of Way

The Liaison Committee, together with the Parish Councils of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford have met with FCC and OCC Pathway officers to arrange work on outstanding issues of overgrown and poorly maintained pathways and byways on FCC/Wren land (FCC = the municipal waste site at Sutton Courtenay). Not everything is agreed yet, but work will be started imminently on improving and maintaining the many rights of way (**welcome news to walkers and horse riders!**).

#### Solar Farm

The FCC application for a large Solar Farm is causing much concern amongst local residents over its potential visual impact and its impact on present rights of way. The opportunity for people to comment has been very limited. I have requested that the application must go before the planning committee where further public comment and opinion can be presented before any decision is made. ➔➔



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#### ➔➔ HIF1 Road (the proposed Didcot relief road)

The change in administration at OCC has allowed a review of these proposals [Ed:- this scheme involves a new river crossing near Culham]. There are, we are told, a number of constraints that we cannot change. These include:- 1) The Govt time limit on the delivery of the road (completion by the end of 2024), & 2) **Threat of speculative housing applications all across the wider area** to District Local Plans if the scheme falls through.

In meeting the deadlines, the planning application must be submitted for consultation by Sept 2021 and brought before a planning committee in Feb 2022. Even then, the timetable for delivery will be tight.

Moving the road and flyover to the west over old tip land would, (we are told), be prohibitively expensive involving digging out the area and replacing soil. It would also introduce a further delay to the delivery of the scheme.

The good news is that both the strategic and the detailed traffic modelling data on which the whole scheme is based will be released for scrutiny in the next few weeks. There will also be a number of public engagement events in all affected areas before the planning application goes in. This will, at least, **give residents and Parish Councils some say in the process.**

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, **please contact me:-** [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com) or 01235 534001.

*Richard Webber*

(OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

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The period of restrictions and limitations on our work and home life continues, (plus activities and hobbies), but the Govt's massive vaccination project does seem to be working incredibly well (if slower than we'd like!). Let's hope that these sacrifices do result in a move back to normal life (though that 'normal' seems hard to remember!).

The Parish Council continues its usual work during this latest Covid-19 phase, in compliance with government guidelines. We continue to hold **our regular monthly meeting**, (NB >> and since January we've switched to **Tuesday evenings**) and THIS one (July 13th) is intended to be in the Caudwell Day Centre, not via Zoom. **DO PLEASE** check our local social media for any late changes! **All residents are welcome to attend**, and details of meeting agendas are posted on the Village website

**To contact** any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the **Parish Clerk, Lorraine Watling**; she may be contacted at [clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org) or 07909 176061, and she will ensure that messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

All **Parish Council minutes** are now **archived** on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> which also has a link to **back copies of the Drayton Chronicle**, information on the latest activities of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other events in the village.

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**Getting back to 'Normal'?**

Yes, let's hope we can, given that the last of the Govt's 'Four Steps' is coming up this month (and PLEASE, no more postponements!). **Looking forward** to a, what did they use to be called, oh yes, a 'HOLIDAY'? Yes, us too, and for a possible bargain, DO sign up to the **Travelzoo newsletter** (free) that's via <https://www.travelzoo.com/uk/> (and they HAVE been paying attention, they have lots of 'staycations' too!!). I did see an email recommending a spot for a short break, easy enough to reach, that's the **Isle of Man** (surely a name change soon in these 'woke' times?!).

AND – to help pay for that well-earned break, why not check out the full range of Martin Lewis's advice, giving **savings GALORE** at:- [www.moneysavingexpert.com/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/) (also a free weekly e-newsletter) – see a great tip re credit cards from that site on page 17.

## Neighbourhood Action Group 5

{NB Information correct at the time of writing, mid-June}.

### Speeding

Some residents in NAG5 villages, (Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay), have recently expressed concerns about speeding. **We would like to invite those with concerns** to attend the next NAG5 meeting, on Monday July 26th at 7pm (venue TBC, see local social media nearer the date), to participate in **problem-solving discussions and how a solution might be determined**. We hope to be able to meet physically, observing restrictions in place at the time. If this isn't possible, we hope to meet virtually. It's vital that we comply with restrictions in place at the time so, if you'd like to attend the meeting, **please email or phone**, using the contact information at the bottom of the page. Please provide your name, a phone number and an email address, along with details of where you live and what your speeding concerns are.

### Holiday fraud

Last year, despite the reduction in travel due to Covid, £2million was lost to holiday and travel-related fraud.

**At least a third of these reports** related to social media platforms, such as Facebook.

#### **Top tips to avoid holiday-related fraud are:-**

Check that the **online web addresses are legitimate**, and haven't been altered by slight changes to the domain name - such as going from co.uk to com.

**Do a thorough online search** to ensure that the company is credible. If a company is defrauding people, there's a good chance that there will be consumer posts warning about using the company. **Look for the ABTA or ATOL logos** on the company's website, **AND you CAN check yourself** if a firm's ABTA/ATOL claims are legit, put 'ATOL Holder Search' into Google, or use **www.ABTA.com** for ABTA.

**Whenever possible pay by credit card {\*\*\* Extra tip follows!}**. Never pay directly into a private individual's bank account. Check receipts, invoices and terms and conditions. Be very wary of companies that don't provide this information.

**If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Pay attention to your instincts!!** →>>

## Suspicious Email Reporting Service

This **new service** has been launched by the National Cyber Security Centre and the police. In the first few months, they had hundreds of thousands of reports, leading so far to several thousand links to bogus websites being removed.

If YOU receive a suspicious email **please forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk** – then of course delete it from your inbox! (this excellent new service is quickly having an effect, please note they DO send you a confirmation email)

### →>> **Mobile phone upgrade scams**

Action Fraud has warned about an ongoing scam where consumers are cold-called by **crooks impersonating employees of legitimate mobile phone operators & suppliers**. Reported losses since Jan 2020 exceed £86,000!

Victims are offered early handset upgrades, or new contracts, at significant discounts. Once customers have been convinced that the deal is genuine and have agreed to proceed, the scammers then ask for their online mobile account credentials, including log-ins, address and bank account details.

Criminals then **place orders with genuine companies** on behalf of victims - but select a **different handset** to that which was requested - and have it shipped to the customer's address.

When the victim receives the incorrect handset, the criminal assures them that it's an error and instructs them to 'return' the handset to an address which is not affiliated to the mobile company. These **BOGUS addresses** are usually residential.

After intercepting the 'returned' handset the criminal ceases contact, and victims find themselves **without a phone and liable for the entirety of a new contract taken out in their name**.

#### **To avoid becoming a victim of this scam:-**

If you're not sure if the person calling you is who they claim to be, **don't provide any personal information** and end the call.

Only contact your network mobile provider on a **number you know to be correct**.

If you receive a device that you didn't order or expect, contact the genuine seller immediately. The details on how to do this will be within the parcel.

**All genuine mobile network operators will send out a jiffy bag for you to return a handset** without incurring additional costs. **Never** post a device directly to a given address.



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**[info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsocietyabingdon.org.uk)**

**\*\*\* Extra Credit-Card Payment Tip:-** As seen on the excellent Money Saving Expert site, using a Credit Card is an extra safeguard when buying items of OVER £100 (and under £30K). It's known as **'Section 75' cover**. **LESS well-known** is that you are STILL so protected if you merely pay a DEPOSIT by credit-card. Search for 'Section 75' at <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com>

**To contact the police** call either 101 (if it's urgent) or 999 (for emergencies). IF POSSIBLE, please use their online reporting method at **www.thamesvalley.police.uk** (you'll be contacted within 24hrs of filing a report)

**Contact NAG5** by calling **01235 848694** or via e-mail to:- **neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com**

If you, or anyone you know, has been affected by a fraud or any other scam please **report it to Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040** or their website **https://www.actionfraud.police.uk**.



# BLAST from the PAST

So, for this occasional venture back into the Pop Chart annals, who was charting this time of year, going back through time? Remember these? >>

**20 years ago** - not a strong month, **Robbie Williams** had a #1 ('Eternity'), and **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** was nearly there with 'Take Me Home', her first solo release.

Back **30 years** and **Bryan Adams** was just starting a run at #1 with 'Everything I Do I Do It For You' (stayed there for most of the decade from memory?!), pushing **Jason Donovan's** 'Any Dream Will Do' off top spot.

**40 years ago** (can it be so long?!) **Shakin' Stevens** had just hit #1 ('Green Door'), keeping **Stevie Wonder** and his supremely original 'Happy Birthday' at #2. The great 'Tainted Love' (**Soft Cell**) – a former Northern Soul classic – was moving up though.

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers) and we'd just had **Middle of the Road** ('Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep – I dare you to start singing that!) & **Lobo** ('Me and You and a Dog Named Boo') in the top 5, followed by three great #1 hits, the fantastic **T-Rex** ('Get It On'), the **Tams** ('Hey Girl Don't Bother Me'), and **Diana Ross** ('I'm Still Waiting').

Can anyone recall all of **60 years back**?! The **Everly Brothers** ('Temptation') had just been #1, and **Shirley Bassey** was blasting out a double A-side ('Reach for the Stars' and 'Climb Every Mountain'), but arguably the standout #1 was **John Leyton** - remember him in The Great Escape? - with his wonderfully evocative 'Johnny Remember Me'.

NB For those struggling to remember 'Chirpy', here's the chorus:- Last night I heard my mama singing a song, Oooooooo we, chirpy chirpy cheep cheep, Woke up this morning and my mama was gone, Oooooooo we, chirpy chirpy cheep cheep, Chirpy chirpy cheep cheep, CHIRP!

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This month **TEN years ago** the planet **Neptune** finally completed its **FIRST** orbit (of the Sun) since being discovered in 1846. So, a 'year' that lasts NOT a year, but **165 years!** Sadly this was the month when a Norwegian lunatic got his 15 minutes of fame, killing over 70 mainly young people in or near Oslo. And news bulletins were full of concern for the massive **Thailand flooding disaster**, which affected 75% of provinces, with over 800 deaths.

In **July 2001**, **Jeffrey Archer** was sentenced to 4 years in the slammer for perjury, and 'perverting the course of justice' (no, not for turgid books). And in a few days **Oxford United** were to move into their just-finished Kassam Stadium. And in the last couple of months, we'd sadly lost much-loved **Harry Secombe & Joan Sims**.

In **July 1991**, we were just a few days away from **Tim Berners-Lee** announcing the **World-Wide-Web** project (please remind younger folk that we haven't ALWAYS had the i'net, emails, and mobile phones?!). And sadly we lost **Michael Landon** (Bonanza, Little House on the Prairie) and the terrific **Lee Remick**. And a survey here showed that **Roald Dahl** had just overtaken **Enid Blyton** as the most popular author of children's books. **Poor Noddy!**

Back in **1981** we became the first team (cricket!) that century to win a match after 'following-on', it was against **AUSTRALIA** (at Leeds, that famous match starred Bob Willis & Ian Botham). And later that month, a worldwide TV audience of over 750million watched the wedding of **Prince Charles & Lady Diana Spencer** (how did that all go, does anyone remember?). Oh, and the **Queen** opened the **Humber Bridge** – not the same day though . . .

In **1971**, the last bit of the **Victoria Line** was opened, and **Chay Blyth** had almost finished his epic yacht journey round the world, first to do it east to west (it's quite a bit harder uphill and against the wind it seems!).

And sadly we lost a couple of contrasting musicians, **Jim Morrison** (lead singer of the Doors, just 28!), and legendary **Louis Armstrong** ('Satchmo'). I read that he had **FOUR** wives, and that despite often being called 'Louie', on '**Hello Dolly**' he sang "This is **Lewis**, Dolly".

## NOTICE BOARD

### VALE of WH District Council

If you need any help, or feel you may need it, during this lockdown and beyond, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact our Community Hub on the telephone number, website, or email address :- (it's always staffed regardless of the major incident):

Telephone: 01235 422600

Website: [www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub)

Email: [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

### DRAYTON HALL NEWS (-ish)

I just heard from our cleaner that some of our windows had been left open. Whilst all the Covid guidance says that fresh air is GOOD, would all **Group Leaders and Hirers please MAKE SURE that any opened windows get SHUT AGAIN** as you leave?!

We also discovered recently that someone had managed to bust the winding mechanism for the stage curtain. That could have been old age and 'wear & tear', but the wire wasn't that old. We managed to bodge it back onto the winding reel, but the wire now has several kinks, and it can't retain its usual tension. SO, PLEASE, those who need to open & close the curtain (just a few groups) PLEASE only use the winder VERY SLOWLY. It will take a little while to get it replaced.

The revised Step 4 date is July 19th, after which (fingers and more crossed) we can hopefully start getting back to 'normal' (whatever that was?!). I've had a few enquiries re (long-delayed) kiddies parties, but it all depends just what the new rules might be.

One new hirer organises **Antiques Fairs, first one due up on Sunday July 11th** (see their ad earlier in this issue).



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OR phone 07909 176 061;

District (VofWH) Andy Cooke (07507 602911)  
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### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

**Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company?** Now, in these COVID affected times, the USUAL monthly tea and chat afternoons have had to be suspended, **BUT** the 'support group' aspect is continuing, by phone, with a volunteers rota calling round, at least once per week.

If you'd like a chat, with a friendly sympathetic voice, please call me (**Jean Hager**) on **531558**.

### LISTINGS

**Foreign Holidays?** – At some point they'll be viable again, so DO check THIS:- The free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is being phased out following the Brexit deal in favour of a new, also free, **Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)** which launched at the beginning of this year. You can still use an EHIC for now, but if you've not got one, you'll need to apply for a GHIC. Both cards get free or discounted medical care in all EU countries. For full info see :-

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/free-ehic-card/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/travel/free-ehic-card/)

The **Hawk Conservancy** (near Andover) are open again, and besides their usual offerings, they have a number of evening events. See <https://www.hawk-conservancy.org> & then add on [/2021/03/02/training-with-irwin/](https://www.hawk-conservancy.org/2021/03/02/training-with-irwin/) for a terrific description of rearing a young bird (a 'black kite'), right through its training to join the flying display birds!

**SOBELL HOUSE FUNDRAISER** – their "Not the Winter Walk") – couldn't happen earlier this year! – has been rearranged for Sunday **July 18th** at Blenheim Palace. Starts between 8 and 9am, tickets £20 (& dogs welcome). All to a great cause naturally. <https://sobellhouse.org/event/winter-walk/> for full info.

**Dog Thefts/Security** Dog owners will all know about the massive increase in these disgraceful thefts round the country, fuelled by gullible nitwits who don't know, or don't care, if the vendor of a dog is credible. The Police Commissioner supports a campaign for dogs to be **Secure, In Sight, and Checkable**, see <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch>

### **FOSTER CARERS NEEDED**

**Could you foster?** The demand hasn't gone away with Lockdown! We need short term and long term foster carers as well as carers who can just help out for weekends and school holidays for children of all ages from babies to teenagers.

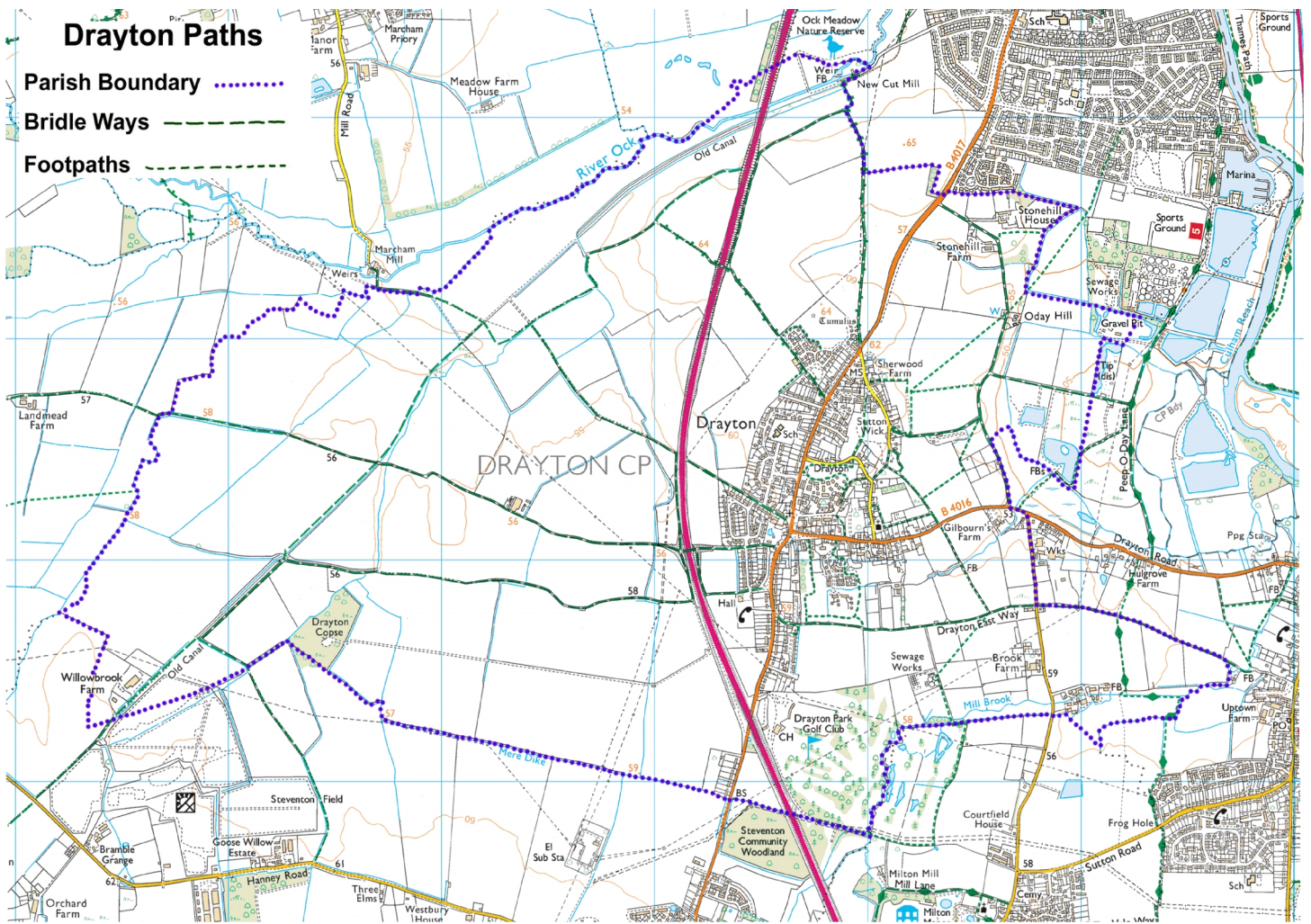
Foster carers receive a comprehensive training and support package along with financial support. **We need a diverse range of people** with different skills and qualities so that more children are placed in the right home, first time.

The package includes:- a fostering fee, recently increased, so **up to** £569 per week paid in addition to fostering allowances; local training and unlimited support from a dedicated fostering team; relief care; 24/7 telephone help line; regular support groups; birthday and holiday payments; free membership of Fostering Network. Their website has comprehensive info:-

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering) or please call **0800 783 5724**. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups. And you can check for updates on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshireOCC/](https://www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshireOCC/)

**There's a range of different fostering schemes, and YOU just might make a big difference to someone's life!**





The Drayton Map (via the OS) relates to the article about footpaths back on page 10.

**Coffee-Break Quiz** :- {no prize, just for fun}  
 What do these words have in common?? **Banana, Dresser, Grammar, Potato, Revive, Uneven, Assess**  
 Answer next month.



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**Dear Milkman** Once upon a time, all milk came via the Milkman. Now, just a few houses have theirs delivered. **Notes to the Milkman** could be famously funny (/bonkers). Here's a few classics from yester-year:-  
 I've just had a baby, please leave another one.  
 Please leave an extra pint of paralysed milk.  
 Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.  
 My daughter says she wants a milkshake. Do you do it before you deliver or do I have to shake the bottle?  
 Sorry not to have paid your bill before, my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it in my pocket for weeks.  
 Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.  
 No milk. Please do not leave milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice.

**Letters to the Editor** -- Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and phone number in case any text needs verification.

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